

PAPERS READ.

NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SANDERLING
(*CALIDRIS ARENARIA*) IN BORNEO.

BY HENRY SEEBOHM.

(Communicated by Dr. E. P. Ramsay.)

In the last number of the Records of the Australian Museum (ii., p. 22) sundry errors respecting the Sanderling are published, which ought not to be allowed to remain uncorrected. First, the existence of two races of the Sanderling is assumed. To the best of my knowledge this is a pure myth, which has never been supported by a shred of evidence and is opposed to all known facts bearing upon the case. The only authority for the myth that I know of is the bare statement that examples of this species from the New World seem to be constantly larger than those from the Old (Newton, Ibis, 1859, p. 256). This is quite contrary to my experience. Twelve examples in my collection from the New World vary in length of wing from 4·7 to 5·05 and average 4·84 inches, whilst 27 examples from the Old World also vary from 4·7 to 5·05 and average 4·81 inches. Secondly, the assertion that Java seems to be the only island of the Malay Archipelago in which the presence of the Sanderling has been determined ceased to be true in 1881, when Mr. Pretyman procured an example on the Tampussuk River, in North-west Borneo. The occurrence of the Sanderling in Borneo is also confirmed by a second example procured on Baram Point (Everett, Ibis, 1890, p. 465). Both these examples are in the British Museum. Thirdly, the ignorance

of the writer of any instance of the Sanderling having been observed within the tropics to the eastward of Java cannot explain away the fact that it has occurred on the Marshall Islands (Finsch, *Ibis*, 1880, p. 331). Finally, in justice to Temminck, it ought to be mentioned that in the list of the Waders in the Leyden Museum published in 1864, besides an example obtained by Kuhl on Java about 1826, there are also two other examples from that island dated 1862 (Schlegel, *Mus. Pays-Bas, Scolopaces*, p. 57).

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